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IN THE CLAIMS

All pending claims are reproduced below. Claims 20-26 are cancelled without prejudice.

18. (Previously Amended) An arbitration circuit for a computer system, the arbitration circuit adapted to couple with a plurality of slave devices having transactions queued for execution, the arbitration circuit further adapted to signal any of the plurality of slave devices to reorder their transactions without signaling a microprocessor of the computer system.

19. (Previously Amended) A computer-implemented method for reordering transactions, the method comprising:

receiving and queuing within a slave device a plurality of transactions for execution;

and

signaling the slave device to reorder its transactions without signaling a

microprocessor of the computer system that the transactions are being

reordered.

20-26. (Canceled)